

PENDERGAST INN  
MACKINAW - ILLINOIS  
(TAZEWELL COUNTY)

HABS. NO. ILL - 268

HABS  
ILL,  
40. MACK

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. ILL-2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
• EDGAR E. LUNDEEN • DISTRICT OFFICER •  
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

PENDERCAST INN  
Mackinaw, Tazewell County, Illinois

Owner. Mrs. May C. James  
Marshall, Illinois

Date of Erection. 1837.

Architect. Unknown.

Builder. Unknown.

Present Condition. The building was first constructed with two rooms on the first floor and three on the second. Later, the leanto addition was added to the rear, extending from the break in roof. At a still later date the rear wing was added. The whole building is in a rather serious state of disrepair.

Number of Stories. One and a half, and basement.

Materials of Construction. The building is constructed of wood, with the exception of the foundation and basement walls, which are of brick masonry, thirteen inches thick. The joists of the first floor are large, twelve-inch diameter, trunks of trees with the bark removed, approximately 3'-0" on centers. The studding is 2" x 4" rough oak, and 16" on centers. Interior walls are finished with plaster over hand-split oak lath, covered with wallpaper. Exterior walls are the same, with oak weatherboarding over the studding four inches to the weather. All interior trim is of black walnut. The floors are pine. The roof, originally wood shingles, has now been covered with rolled roofing paper. The rafters are 3" and 4" oak limbs, 2'-0" on centers.

Other Existing Records. Article in Daily Pantagraph,  
Bloomington, Illinois, September 26, 1931.

Additional Data. In 1837, James Pendergast bought a lot in the village of Mackinaw, Illinois, and erected the tavern known as the Pendergast Inn. This inn was used as a regular stop for the stage line between Bloomington and Pekin, Illinois. Many noted people used this inn as a stop over in traveling, including such well known men as Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Governor Oglesby, and officials and generals of the Civil War. The southwest room of this tavern was used at one time by Abraham Lincoln for a court room.

The inn was a central spot for entertainment and hospitality. The great Lincoln rally of 1860 brought hundreds to this inn and, as all the available beds were used, the guests slept in chairs and on the floors until there was no more room to be had.

Although the construction of the building is the same as when it was originally built, it is depreciating rapidly.

In 1927, just a few months before her death, Miss Ida Campbell, then the owner of the inn, wrote for The Pantagraph a history of the place. She had occupied it at different times after inheriting it from her parents. She was an artist and used the place for her studio, creating and teaching art. She had classes in drawing, painting, ceramics. She built a kiln and burned her own chinaware after it was decorated. When she died the property passed to her younger sister, Mrs. James, and the picturesque studio was closed up along with the rooms in which Lincoln exchanged stories with fellow

travelers.

References: Mrs. May C. James,  
Marshall, Illinois.

Loren Van Kleeft  
Author

(Approved) Walter E. Hansen  
District Officer

3/11/37 W